

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 1-15 and 17-30 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the recited subject matter.

Please ADD new claims 33-46, as follows. For the Examiner's convenience, all claims currently pending in this application have been reproduced below:

Claims 1-15 have been cancelled.

16. (Original) An exposure method of transferring a master pattern onto a substrate while moving a controlled element concerning exposure operation, comprising:

transferring the master pattern onto the substrate while moving the controlled element in accordance with a target locus generated in correspondence with a shape characteristic of the mask pattern and a shape characteristic of a pattern already formed on the substrate.

Claims 17-30 have been cancelled.

31. (Original) A device manufacturing method comprising:  
the first coating step of coating a substrate with a first resist;  
the first exposure step of transferring a first master pattern onto the substrate coated with the first resist;  
the first developing step of developing the substrate bearing the first master pattern;

the second coating step of coating the developed substrate with a second resist;  
the second exposure step of transferring a second master pattern onto the substrate coated with the second resist; and  
the second developing step of developing the substrate bearing the second master pattern, wherein the second exposure step includes  
the correction step of correcting a target locus of a controlled element concerning exposure operation on the basis of correction information corresponding to a shape characteristic of the second master pattern and/or a shape characteristic of a pattern formed on the substrate after the first developing step, and  
the transfer step of transferring the second master pattern onto the substrate while moving the controlled element toward the corrected target locus.

32. (Original) The method according to claim 31, wherein different types of exposure apparatuses are used in the first and second exposure steps.

33. (New) An exposure method of transferring a pattern onto a substrate while moving an element concerning the transfer, said method comprising a step of:

transferring a second pattern onto the substrate, onto which a first pattern has been transferred, while moving the element based on information prepared with respect to each position of the element for correcting an overlay error between the first and second patterns.

34. (New) A method according to claim 33, wherein the information is prepared with respect to at least one of a group of a shape characteristic of the first pattern already transferred onto the substrate, a shape characteristic of the second pattern, a characteristic of an exposure apparatus used for the transfer, a direction in which the element is to be moved, and a speed at which the element is to be moved.

35. (New) A method according to claim 34, further comprising a step of synthesizing first and second information, the first and second information being prepared as information with respect to each of two of a shape characteristic of the first pattern already transferred onto the substrate, a shape characteristic of the second pattern, and a characteristic of an exposure apparatus used for the transfer, wherein in said transferring step the element is moved based on information obtained in said synthesizing step.

36. (New) A method according to claim 34, wherein the shape characteristic of the second pattern is obtained based on a master to be used of the transfer.

37. (New) A method according to claim 33, further comprising a step of providing a user interface for setting the information.

38. (New) A method according to claim 33, wherein the element includes at least one of the substrate, a master having a second pattern and an element of an optical system.

39. (New) An exposure apparatus for transferring a pattern onto a substrate while moving an element concerning the transfer, said apparatus comprising:

a moving unit which moves the element; and

a control unit which controls said moving unit so as to move the element based on information prepared with respect to each position of the element for correcting an overlay error between first and second patterns during transferring the second pattern onto the substrate onto which the first pattern has been transferred.

40. (New) An apparatus according to claim 39, wherein the information is prepared with respect to at least one of a group of a shape characteristic of the first pattern already transferred onto the substrate, a shape characteristic of the second pattern, a characteristic of said exposure apparatus used for the transfer, a direction in which the element is to be moved, and a speed at which the element is to be moved.

41. (New) An apparatus according to claim 39, further comprising a synthesizing unit which synthesizes first and second information, the first and second information being prepared as the information with respect to each of the two of a shape characteristic of the first pattern already transferred onto the substrate, a shape characteristic of the second pattern, and a characteristic of an exposure apparatus used for the transfer, wherein said control unit controls said moving unit so as to move the element based on information obtained by said synthesizing unit.

42. (New) An apparatus according to claim 40, wherein the shape characteristic of the second pattern is loaded based on a master designated in a job file.

43. (New) An apparatus according to claim 39, further comprising a system which provides a user interface for setting the information.

44. (New) An apparatus according to claim 39, wherein the element includes at least one of the substrate, a master having the second pattern and an element of an optical system.

45. (New) A device manufacturing method comprising a step of transferring a second pattern onto a substrate, onto which a first pattern has been transferred, using a second exposure apparatus defined in claim 39.

46. (New) A method according to claim 45, wherein the first pattern has been transferred using a first exposure apparatus different from the second exposure apparatus.